

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06

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TAGS: OCON, WFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE - COMMITTEE III

REF: ROME 15733

1. COMMITTEE III MOVED INTO A CONTACT GROUP ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12. FIVE GROUP B REPRESENTATIVES ARE U.S., FRANCE, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND SWEDEN WITH BELGIUM AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER FLOWING FROM HIS ROLE AS GROUP B SPOKESMAN. GROUP OF 77 REPRESENTATIVES ARE ARGENTINA, ALGERIA, CUBA, YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA, NIGERIA AND CHINA WITH MEXICO AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER. POLAND AND USSR REPRESENT THE EASTERN EUROPE BLOC. IN ADDITION, ANY DELEGATION CAN JOIN THIS OPEN-ENDED GROUP.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE THAT SECRETARIAT DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IX (PRICE STABILIZATION) AND X (TRADE AND ADJUSTMENT) AND MEXICAN DRAFT RESOLUTION WERE ALL ON THE TABLE FOR DISCUSSION. HOWEVER, CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION QUICKLY STARTED OFF USING MEXICAN DRAFT AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. IT WAS AGREED THAT FIRST READING WOULD NOT TRY FIX EXACT LANGUAGE BUT WOULD CONTAIN ALL SUGGESTIONS IN BRACKETS. BY PREARRANGEMENT
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AMONG GROUP B PARTICIPANTS, BELGIUM STARTED CONTACT GROUP

DISCUSSION BY NOTING DESIRE REACH AGREED TEXT BUT
SETTING FORTH FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. NEED MODIFY AGGRESSIVE TONE OF MEXICAN DRAFT
2. NEED CONCENTRATE ON TRADE ASPECTS AS THEY RELATED

TO FOOD PROBLEM

3. COULD NOT GO FARTHER THAN WHAT HAD BEEN DECIDED
IN OTHER FORUMS, E.G., UNCTAD AND GATT. WITH RESPECT
NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS
EXPRESSED AT 6TH SPECIAL SESSION AND THIS SHOULD BE
BORNE IN MIND.

4. ON INDEXATION ISSUE, UNCTAD HAS A STUDY IN PROCESS
AND GROUP B COULD GO NO FURTHER THAN NOTE STUDY.

3. AS EXPECTED, MEXICAN DRAFT FIERCELY DEFENDED BY INDIA,
YUGOSLAVIA, ARGENTINA, ALGERIA AND FROM TIME TO TIME BY
CUBA. THRUST OF THEIR EFFORTS WAS TO RETAIN PRIVILEGED
POSITION GIVEN LDC'S BY NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. THUS
EMPHASIS WAS ON OBTAINING MORE FAVORABLE TERMS OF
TRADE FOR LDC'S, ACHIEVING AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF
INCOME IN THE WORLD, AND PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF LDC
EXPORTS BY DC'S.

4. CONTACT GROUP WILL CONTINUE ON WEDNESDAY SINCE SURFACE
BARELY SCRATCHED. SWEDISH DEL RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM
STOCKHOLM DURING AFTERNOON MEETING WHICH SOFTENED THEIR
POSITION AND MADE THEM TRY TO WORK FROM MEXICAN
DRAFT TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT.VOLPE

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